

I am most grateful indeed to Jim McCleary, Lepidoptera Recorder for the Dumfries and Galloway region, for his invaluable comments on my list of species recorded and in particular for pointing out to me the potential significance of the *Agrotis puta* and *Tethea ocularis* records. Thanks also to Keith Bland for kindly pointing out the error of my ways concerning *Euphyia biangulata* and for supplying me with the literature references for that species in Scotland. Mark Shaw provided considerable assistance in checking the Scottish Insect Records Index for previous records of all the species discussed and for obtaining the appropriate literature references for me. I am also grateful to David Carter at the Natural History Museum, London, for locating one of the required literature references.— COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP.

New species of Lepidoptera for the Isle of Wight

On 16 May 1998 Brian Warne caught an example of *Hadena comta* (D.&S.) at his light trap at Binstead. This species at present has extended its range westwards to Gloucestershire and northwards to Lincolnshire and is new to the Isle of Wight. Whether this species originated in this country as a result of migration or importation is a question which remains unresolved. On 26 August of the same year David Biggs found a larva of *Mompha sturnipennella* (Tr.) (= *nodicolella*) (Fuchs.) in a galled seed pod of *Epilobium angustifolium* at Bouldnor; this emerged on 11 September. This species is new to both Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. On 1 September I took an example of the rare migrant *Thaumetopoea processionea* (L.) at Freshwater – new to both Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. A second example was recorded on 6 September.

I am grateful to Barry Goater for the identification by dissection of the following two species which were taken at Freshwater and are both new Vice-County records. *Eupithecia satyrata* (Hb.) was recorded on 5 June 1968 and two *Oligia versicolor* (Borkh.) were taken, one each on 1 and 6 June 1997. I have two specimens which are probably this species dated 14 and 15 June 1962 in my collection, both taken at Freshwater.— S.A. KNILL-JONES, 2 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight PO40 9AL.

Who needs a trap when a hamster will do – or – Pyralids ate my pasta

Do you ever wonder how uncommon moths are trapped, without resorting to spending hundreds of pounds on a Robinson or Skinner trap. At last the secret can be revealed. Simply get your children a hamster and then buy its food loose from your friendly pet supermarket. Place in a warm cupboard and then wait for your children to ask you what those strange little moths are which appear to have infested their bedroom. By this time, because you won't have fought your way across their bedroom floor for some time, the "little moths" will have made home in other parts of the house. The kitchen would seem to be a good place – it's warm and there's a good supply of food. How about that flat pasta you bought the last time you were in France, or the brown rice in the same cupboard? This infestation by the Indian Meal Moth *Plodia interpunctella* (Hb.) lasted from midsummer 1997 to midsummer 1998 – in spite of throwing away all the stored pasta, rice and hamster food. The rest of